

**Tongue Twisters**  
Tongues and Prophecy in the Church Meeting

**Accountability: Let's hold ourselves accountable!**

- Last time we discussed suffering from the book of Job. We learned that God's people will have seasons of celebration and of suffering. Our teaching reminded us that Christians are not spared from suffering, suffering is not God's punishment for our sins, and there is purpose in suffering.
- How did we do this week with looking at the suffering all around us and in our own lives? Did we have the godly attitude of Job, or the worldly attitude of Job's wife and friends?

**Refresh: Let's take a fresh look at our focal scripture again!**

- 1 Corinthians 14. Take turns reading the scripture.

**Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.**

- In our study this week, we learned about the differences between the gifts of tongues and prophecy. Tongues are a vertical gift, while prophecy is a horizontal gift. What did we mean by that, and what did we learn about these gifts that make them so uniquely different?
- We learned that the gift of tongues is a worship gift. As an upward gift, what should we make of interpretations that sound more like an exhortation from God to His people rather than an interpretation of a person praising God? What parameters did Paul give us to help us determine whether or not an interpretation is valid? Let's make sure that our answers have Biblical support. Can you point to your answers in scripture?
- When someone from the outside such as an unbeliever or a visitor attended the church at Corinth, there was a real possibility that they would think that the church people were crazy and never return. This was having a negative impact on the spread of the gospel and on the growth of the church. Why did Paul say that this could be the case, and what was Paul's solution for this issue at Corinth? Should tongues be permitted in a public church service where there is no interpretation? What would Paul say about whole congregations speaking in tongues at once...or about preachers who speak in tongues from the pulpit without interpretation? Hint: V.23 and V.40.
- Paul remarked that in the church he would rather speak five intelligible words than ten thousand words in a tongue. We know that Paul was not against tongues and

encouraged the Corinthians to use their gifts...even in the church. Why did Paul make this remark? From the scriptures, what outcomes did Paul encourage in conducting church services...what should be the aims of a church service? What can we learn about conducting church services from Paul's teaching?

**Study: Additional scriptures for deeper Bible study.**

- Romans 12:4-8 Lets use our gifts.
- 2 Timothy 2:15 Do not be ashamed.
- Hebrews 10:24-25 Assembly is important.
- Colossians 3:16 Encourage one another.
- Acts 20:21 Be careful with God's church.

**Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?**

- One of the principles that we discussed this week was that mature Christians don't try to make themselves the focal point of the church service. It is important that when we come together that our focus remains on Jesus. Is there anything that we need to confess to the Lord as something that competes with God for His glory?
- When we govern the use of our spiritual gifts in order to make sure that everyone is edified, and to avoid chaotic church meetings, we are putting others ahead of ourselves. One commentator wrote: Not everything that was inherently good was necessarily good for the gathered assembly. What are some specific ways that we can encourage the best good for others in the group, and not just think about ourselves?
- We talked about two water fountains; one was a trickle while the other was a torrent. If you were a water fountain in regards to your openness to the Holy Spirit and His gifts, would you need to turn up the water, or tone it down? What personal adjustments would you need to make to arrive at a balanced and thoroughly Biblical position on these things?